



Innovations

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SECURITY FOR YOUR ANDROID DEVICE

BY NICK ESPINOSA

I love the Android platform. It's fast and versatile and because virtually every device maker outside of Apple uses it, it can come in many varieties. Android is an open platform which means that virtually anyone who wants to develop an app for it, can. Google, the creator of Android, also has an open marketplace where anyone can publish their apps. The downside to this is that Google does not heavily regulate their app marketplace, called Google Play, so determining what apps are good, bad and malicious can be rather difficult for many people.

Following these steps and using these apps should help keep you safe:

1. Many mobile device makers like to preload their own bloatware and software into the phone. Much of this cannot be uninstalled from Android easily. One of the major pieces of bloatware used is a product called "DT Ignite." Odds are if you have a more recent Android device from a major cellular carrier you have this installed into your phone. The carriers use DT Ignite to install other pieces of software into your phone. It has been known to lock up phones, use the data in your plan to install things you don't want and is considered a general nuisance. Removing DT Ignite is very difficult and many apps have been created that claim to remove it though many cannot. For me, I disable this app using an app called "DT Ignite Detect & Disable" (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.simonsickle.carrieradwarepreventer&hl=en>). This has one simple task and it does it well.
2. As I mentioned earlier, Android has a lot of apps and programs that run at startup or in the background. These can drag down performance and if you have installed an app that is malicious or bad having it running could be a threat to personal privacy and data. I use an app called "Package Disabler Pro" (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ospolice.package-disablerpro&hl=en>). The one I downloaded is for Samsung devices however this company makes many different versions so you should be able to find one that fits your needs as well. With this app I'm able to disable anything on my phone, from carrier installed bloatware I can't uninstall, to useless processes that do nothing but kill my battery life and performance. If you're planning on using this app but are unsure of what you can and cannot disable, I would highly recommend seeking the advice of a qualified IT professional that knows the Android operating system fairly well to ensure that nothing critical to the device's operation is disabled.
3. With Android it's important to have a virus scanner. Preferably one that will scan apps in real time as they're downloaded and installed. With virus and malware defense I like to layer my security. As my active scanner I use Malwarebytes (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.malwarebytes.antimalware&hl=en>). Malwarebytes runs live on my Android device so as I install or update apps it will scan them for threats. It will update its threat database on my device every hour so I know it's up to date with the latest threats. It is also scheduled to run periodically just to make sure I didn't pick anything malicious up as I'm going to various sites and places on the internet.

Continued on the next page...

Technology Tidbits

Want earbuds that last – and sound great?

Bragi's new earbuds, named simply The Headphone now have "bragging rights" on both battery life and sound quality. At six hours of battery life, these buds shred all competition. That includes Erato's Apollo 7 and the Earin buds – both of which wimp out at three hours. Bragi's Headphone also delivers a crystal-clear sound that beats most Bluetooth and WiFi earbuds. And they let sounds come through from whatever space you're in. They also receive phone calls and respond to voice commands. Plus, all of this is 100% wireless. They even include a sleek-looking lanyard-style carrying case. All that being said, The Headphone is well worth a look if you're looking for a great pair of earbuds.

-DigitalTrends

Being "smart" isn't just for phones and TVs anymore.

Soon, Microsoft's Cortana will be able to see inside your fridge. With cutting-edge, fridge-safe technologies, Cortana can identify the foods you place there. After spending some time with your fridge's contents, Cortana learns your food preferences. It can even offer up recipes or shopping lists to make your life easier. While other smart fridges have cameras that show users what's inside without opening the door, the Cortana version actually helps you keep your fridge stocked. By the time this fridge hits the market, it will have captured thousands of photos of food packages from around the world. And that means you may soon have a smart new helper when it comes to shopping and fixing meals.

-TechCrunch

Google's Chromebook Pixel may have faded into a high-resolution sunset...

But the good news is, some great new challengers will soon take its place. The Dell Chromebook 13, for instance, sports a 1080p touch-screen display, aluminum chassis, glass trackpad and a (very fast) Intel Core i3 processor. Meanwhile, weighing in at just 2.9 pounds, the Toshiba Chromebook 2 delivers nearly the same performance as the Dell. Yet at a full two pounds less, you'll appreciate its light weight. And the new kid on the block, the Acer Chromebook 14, offers a high-end feel and near top-of-the-line specs for just \$300. Any of these challengers will fill the bill for you if you love the low price of a Chromebook, but want something a little more premium.

-AndroidCentral.com

4. As a secondary scanner Kaspersky's app (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.kms.free&hl=en>). Kaspersky has an excellent reputation for its scanning engine which is why I use it as passive defense, meaning it doesn't run actively on my device though I do schedule it to run. Between this one and Malwarebytes my phone has fairly solid protection against the wild west that is Google Play store.

Virus scanners, though can miss things. Android has the potential for some pretty nasty Trojan infections as well. Just to make sure that the scanners didn't miss anything I also use an app called Stubborn Trojan Killer (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cleanmaster.security.stubborntrjkiller&hl=en>). This app goes after all of the deepest infections that may pass your defenses. Like the other apps listed here, this runs on a schedule and will alert me if it finds anything.

Don't think for a minute that I'm ever resting on my laurels when it comes to Android defense. I'm constantly installing and testing new threat detection apps and if you ask me a week from now, I may have changed out one of the above apps for a newer, better one. By no means am I saying this to imply that you too must be as fanatical as me, or hopefully your IT provider on this. The above, even long term, will vastly mitigate your chances of infections and threats. You will also note that I did not mention a URL filter. As I mentioned in my general tips, I fully recommend a corporate VPN connection and that should be providing this capability for you providing you have a good firewall with that level of protection, and you should! I also did not mention remote location and recovery. Android does this natively through your Google account so there is really no need to add software just for this purpose, especially if you've encrypted your device (and you should!)

The Magic of a Vision

by Jack Miller

In my book, *Simple Success*, I say, “In reality, there’s only one way to predict the future with any accuracy. Actually, it’s not predicting the future, it’s shaping the future. You can shape the future. You can envision what your life and business should look like 1, 5, 10, 20 years down the road, and you can work hard to make it happen. That’s what I mean by the Magic of a Vision.” I go on to say much more about it and how you can use this idea to lead your business on to great success.

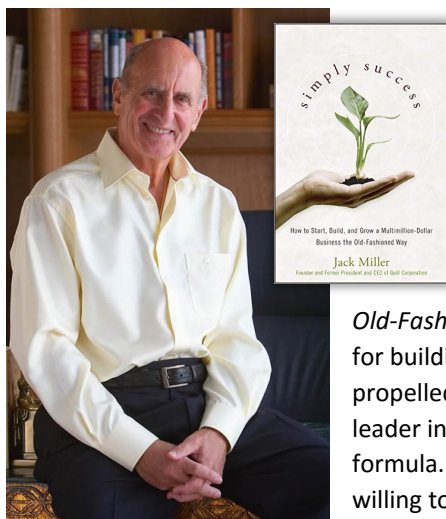
But over the years since writing the book, through my work with the Jack Miller Center, (www.jackmillercenter.org) I have learned how “The Magic of a Vision” also helped build our great nation. The vision for our country is contained in the first 36 words in our Declaration of Independence; “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness.”

This is followed by the words, “That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the Governed.....” Our founders gave us such a government, a government as outlined in our constitution. They built a lot of safeguards into the constitution to make sure “to secure these Rights.” The most important of these was the separation of powers and the first 10 amendments, The Bill of Rights.

For over 200 years, this vision helped create a hard-working, responsible, self-reliant population that has made our nation great. But, I would argue that these protections are, and have been for some time, under attack as more and more power flows from the powers “reserved to the States, or to the people” (10th amendment) up to the Federal government and from the legislative and judiciary branches of the government to the executive branch.

As our founders’ vision for the country, the vision of a free people with certain “unalienable” individual, personal rights comes more and more under attack, I am not sure we can predict the future of our Republic with any kind of certainty. One way that we may be able to reclaim that certainty is by educating our young people with that wonderful vision in those 36 words in our Declaration. It is certainly worth the effort.

And with a clear-cut vision for any endeavor you are involved with, whether a business or something else, you help shape your future and increase your chances of success exponentially. Without such a vision, you drift in whichever direction the winds of fate are blowing and end up, for better or worse, on whatever shores they push you toward.



Jack Miller, former President and CEO of Quill Corporation, is a prominent entrepreneur and philanthropist who built Quill to almost a \$700 million company and, along with his brother Harvey, has created a hugely successful commercial real estate business. He has received many awards for his entrepreneurship and philanthropy and was elected to the Illinois Business Hall of Fame and the Chicago Business Hall of Fame. Mr. Miller graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Journalism, and a focus in advertising.

Simple Success: How to Start, Build and Grow a Multimillion Dollar Business the Old-Fashioned Way (available for purchase at www.amazon.com) is the entrepreneur’s handbook for building a solid and profitable business, based on proven business practices—the practices that propelled Quill from a one-man business with a phone in Dad’s chicken store to the \$630,000,000 leader in the office products industry it became before selling to Staples. No razzle dazzle secret formula. Just time proven, moral business practices. A must read for any business person who is willing to work hard for success.

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Shiny New Gadget of the Month

Resist The Dark Side: Custom Lightsaber

The Sith Lord is about to strike – this is no time for an ordinary lightsaber. Time to pull out your own hand-made custom lightsaber...

You'd be hard-pressed to find an imaginary weapon as iconic as the Star Wars lightsaber. Haven't you (or someone you know) ever secretly yearned to wield one against an evil warlord? Well, in case you didn't know – you can. And, with your own custom-made lightsaber, you'll be well-armed.

These are no ordinary Hasbro plastic toys. In fact, the features and choices available at some of the top-rated lightsaber shops could well leave you "starstruck." From "flash-on-clash" to blade color to heavy, medium or light battle-readiness, to custom soundboards and circuitry, the choice is yours.

If you're a diehard do-it-yourselfer, complete kits are available. You can even get a double-bladed or cross-guard-type lightsaber. Prices range from about \$400 on up. For more details, check out <http://www.ultrasabers.com/>.

Choose well, young Padawan.

The Lighter Side....

Douglas Adams

(author, Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy)

"I've come up with a set of rules that describe our reactions to technology:

1. Anything that is in the world when you're born is normal and ordinary and is just a natural part of the way the world works.
2. Anything that's invented between when you're 15 and 35 is new and exciting and revolutionary and you can probably get a career in it.
3. Anything invented after you're 35 is against the natural order of things."

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